

Deepen Strategic Cooperation, Promote Development of Sino-Thai Relations

Prof. Zhu Zhenming

Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences

- This year is the 40th anniversary for establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand .It is a very memorable day.
- The history of relations between China and Thailand dates back for thousands of years.
- After the founding of the People's Republic of China ,Sino-Thai relations experienced tortuous course during the period of the Cold-war.
- In 1975, two countries established diplomatic relations ,and Sino-Thai relations entered a new historical period.

I . Development of Sino-Thai Relations and Its Achievement

- Since establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand for 40 years, Sino-Thai relations have developed soundly and steadily.
- Development of Sino-Thai relations achieve remarkable progress for 40 years.
- 1.Great changes have taken place in Sino-Thai relations .
- Sino-Thai relations mainly focus on economic relations a while, now political, economic ,and cultural relations continuously extend. All-around , multi-field cooperation pattern has taken shape, and Sino-Thai relations are greatly enhanced.

- 2. Mutual political trust deepens .
- An outstanding case is frequent exchanges of visits between the top, almost all the top leaders from two sides visited other country.
- This shows close relations between the two sides.
- 3. Economic cooperative fields constantly expand .
- Economic and trade cooperation is a key link in Sino-Thai relations.

- Bilateral trade has increased . China became Thailand's biggest export market. Thailand's trade with China accounts for 16.4% in Thailand foreign trade.

-

-

Bilateral Trade in 2013

- Volume of trade \$64.4 billion
- Thailand export to China \$26.8 billion
- Thailand import from China \$37.6 billion

-

(Source :Thai Ministry of Commerce)

-
- Mutual investment(As of the end of 2011)
- Thailand's contractual investment in China: \$10bn ,
- Thailand's real direct investment in China : \$3.39bn
- Thailand's investment in China projects :4062 .
- China's direct investment in Thailand : \$770 million .
- (Source :Chinese Ministry of Commerce)

- ## Project contractor

- As the end of 2011,China's signed contract amount of contracted engineering in Thailand: \$1.71bn,
- fulfilled turnove: \$5.09bn
- (Source :Chinese Ministry of Commerce)

- 4. Bilateral personnel exchanges reached a new record.
- Personnel exchanges between two sides are in full swing from high levels to low levels, central government to local government ,inland to cities along the border,public institutions to private groups.
- The Chinese tourists arrived Thailand in 2014 reached 4.7million ,China becomes Thailand' s top origin country for tourists.
- A lot of personnel exchanges between China and Thailand enhance mutual understanding ,and effectively promote development of Sino-Thai relations.

- 5. Sino-Thai traditional friendship is further strengthened.
- Since establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand for 40 years, Sino-Thai relations has withstood the test of time and changes of international situation. The concept of “Jin -Thai Phee- nong- Kan” has been popular.
- 6. Sino-Thai relations become a example of peaceful coexistence ,mutual benefit .
- Despite two sides practice different social and economic systems , two sides always adhere to United Nations Charter ,Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and international laws concerned to deal with bilateral relations, so that Sino-Thai relations surpass social,economic systems and ideology, and gain soundly development. Sino-Thai relations make contribution for establishing new style international relationship.

- 7. Development of Sino-Thai relations promote peace and development in Southeast Asia.
- Good bilateral relations not only benefit progress and prosperity ,but also facilitate peace ,stability and development in the region ,push forward exchange among Southeast Asian countries ,and between China and Southeast Asian countries.

-

II .Sino-Thai Strategic Cooperation Continues to Deepen

- Sino-Thai strategic cooperation is an embodiment of deepening of Sino-Thai relations .In China's relations with ASEAN,Sino-Thai relations have been at the forefront . China and Thailand is the first to upgrade the good-neighborly relations to comprehensive strategic partner.
- Since two sides established comprehensive strategic partnership in 2012, Sino-Thai strategic cooperation has displayed several characteristics :

- 1.Cooperation areas between China and Thailand are more wider.
- Almost all areas are involved ,including political ,economic,cultural, educational, science and technology ,environment protection ,defense and security, and so on.Many cooperative projects have been carried out.
- 2.Cultural exchanges become a highlight in Sino-Thai relations .

- Cultural exchange activities between two sides are not only more and more ,but rich in content ,broad coverage,and more people to get involved .
 - Almost no countries in Southeast Asia reached the level in cultural exchange.
-
- 3. Defense and security cooperation has become new areas of cooperation .
 - China and Thailand established mechanisms for defense and security consultation ,two armies carried out joint military training and military exercises for many times.

- 4.Strategic cooperation has not been affected by political changes at home and abroad.
- Sum up ,with deepening of Sino-Thai strategic cooperation , Sino-Thai mutual political trust is further reinforced ,Sino-Thai relations are further upgraded ,and both also benefited from this new relationship.

III. Some Ideas and Proposals for Deepening Sino-Thai Relations

- In order to promote further progress of Sino-Thai relations ,bring benefit to both people,I would like to put forward several ideas and proposals .
- 1.Both should proceed from the Sino-Thai strategic cooperation and plan development of Sino-Thai relations .
- At present , both should seriously implement goals put by Sino-Thai joint action plan of strategic cooperation.

- 2.Both should strengthen mutual understanding .
- Two sides should adhere to the principle of non-interference in others' internal affairs, meanwhile ,prevent Sino-Thai relations being under the impact from political change at home.

- 3.Both should to strengthen communication and consultation in time.
- China and Thailand are facing new problems which affects Sino-Thai relation in the new situation ,it is extremely essential to strengthen twos sides' communication and consultation timely.

4.Both governments should strengthen management and guidance of medias.

Given some hyped and untruthful reports in the media had hurt Sino-Thai relation ,we should lead media to correctly report on Sino-Thai relation ,avoid misleading the public.

5.To accelerate cooperation in “One Belt and One Road” initiative .

It should become the priority of Sino-Thai cooperation .

- The initiatives of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road opens significant new perspectives on development in Asia. two sides' cooperation has profound significance, specially cooperation in infrastructure.
- **6.To strengthen research on Sino-Thai relations.**
- **There are much successful experiences in Sino-Thai relations,also some issues need to be resolved.As academic circles ,we should strengthen research on these new issues,especially Sino-Thai joint research .**

- **Look forward to the future, Sino-Thai relations has good prospects ,let us make more contribution to promote development of Sino-Thai relations.**

- **Thank you !**